



GROUP QUESTIONS FOR **MAY 24**

Series: *True Worship*

Worship and Sacrifice

Icebreakers!

1. How do people talk about *sacrifice* today?
2. What makes people in our culture reluctant to talk about sacrifice in a religious way?

Growing Together

3. What different kinds of sacrifice do we see in the Bible? According to Micah 6:6-8, what's more important to God than sacrifices? (see also 1 Samuel 15:22, on the back)
4. Pick one of these passages and ask: What was wrong with their sacrifices?
1 Samuel 15:22 • Isaiah 1:10-17 • Malachi 1:6-14
5. Why must we accept Jesus' sacrifice for sin on our behalf? Why do people keep insisting on bringing their own "offerings" to God instead? (see *Hebrews 9:24-28*)
6. How did Jesus' life and death affect the way we sacrifice to God? Are all our sacrifices finished because of Him? If so, why? If not, why not?
7. How is the whole-life concept of sacrifice expressed in the passages below? How does this force us to "count the cost" of following Jesus?
Galatians 2:20 • Romans 12:1 • Luke 9:23-25 • Luke 14:25-33
8. What do people fear in making sacrifices to God? What do we lose in what we give to God – and what do we gain? (see *Luke 18:28-30*)
9. **From the message this Sunday: What questions do you have? What encouraged you? What challenged you? Where did you see the Gospel?**

Head, Heart, and Hands

10. Have you been thinking wrong about your sacrifice to God? What mindset needs to change for you to worship God well, with all you are and with all you have?
11. Worship, from the heart, drives right sacrifice – and not the other way around. How will your awe of God motivate your readiness to give to God?
12. What sacrifices do you know you need to *start* making? What sacrifices do you need to *keep* making? When is the soonest moment that you can begin?

1 Samuel 15:22

And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

Micah 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Isaiah 1:11-17

"What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ... Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. ... When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Hebrews 9:24-28

Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly ... every year with blood not his own ... But as

it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Luke 9:23-25

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

Luke 18:28-30

And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."